

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 030431Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6848

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 2589

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR PO ID AS

SUBJECT: TIMOR: DISCUSSION WITH ASUTRALIAN CHARGE

REF: A. LISBON 1101 B. STATE 042852

1. DURING MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN CHARGE MALCOM DAN MARCH 1, DCM, DRAWING FROM REFTELS, STATED THAT WE HAVE WONDERED WHETHER ONE ELEMENT OF TIMOR PROBLEM MAY BE FACT THAT GOI IS NOT FULLY INFORMED OF GOP POSITION. DCM OUTLINED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOP DOES NOT INTEND PRECIPITATE TERMINATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN TIMOR, BUT RATHER IS PLANNING INTERIM PERIOD OF SOME YEARS TO BUILD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BASE AFTER WHICH TIMORESE COULD CHOOSE THEMSELVES, AND THAT DURING THIS PERIOD GOP HOPED INDONESIA WOULD BE ABLE TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE THERE.

2. DAN STATED THAT AUSTRALIANS HAVE BEEN KEEPING GOI ABREAST OF GOP THINKING THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS, INCLUDING INTELLIGENCE. THEREFORE, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE PRESENT GOI CAMPAIGN OF DEPICTING GOP AS FAILING TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE WITH GOI, AND DILI GOVERNMENT AS COMMUNIST-INFILTRATED CAN BE ATTRIBUTED PRIMARILY TO GOI LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF GOP POSITION. HOWEVER, DAN FELT THAT GOP FAILURE TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO INFORM GOI

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DIRECTLY OF ITS THINKING MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PRESENT

SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, DCM INFORMED DAN THAT PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDANT ALI MURTOPO WOULD BE GOING TO LISBON FOR DISCUSSIONS ON TIMOR WITH GOP, FOLLOWING ATTENDANCE OF OPEC SUMMIT MARCH 4-6. DAN SHARED OUR OPINION THAT IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GOI EVALUATION OF TIMOR IS FEAR THAT GOP IS UNSTABLE, AND MAY TURN FURTHER LEFT, THIS MAKING OF DOUBT ANY ENGAGEMENTS ON TIMOR IT MIGHT MAKE.

3. DAN SAID THAT HE HAD JUST LEARNED INFORMALLY FROM CANBERRA THAT INCOMING AMBASSADOR WOLCOTT WILL BRING WITH HIM A LETTER FROM WHITLAM TO SUHARTO CONCERNING TIMOR. DAN SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH LETTER IS COINED IN VERY FRIENDLY TERMS, HE EXPECTS SUHARTO TO REACT POLITELY IN FRONT OF WOLCOTT, BUT EXPLODE PRIVATELY THEREAFTER. OWING TO TIMOR, DAN SEES AHEAD A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FOR AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS.

4. TURNING TO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN BRINGING ABOUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO TIMOR PROBLEM, DAN STATED THAT GOA HAD EARLIER BROACHED WITH GOI POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND "A FEW MILLIONS" OF AID DURING NEXT FEW YEARS (IMPLIEDLY PRIOR TO TIMORESE SELF-DETERMINATION). GOI HAD REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY, FIRST SAYING SUCH AID WOULD BE "UNFRIENDLY" AND LATER AN "UNWISE" STEP. DAN THOUGHT GOI WOULD LOOK UPON SUCH AID AS SUPPORT TO FRETELIN/UDT TO DETRIMENT OF APODETI.

5. DAN ALSO SAID THAT GOP RECENTLY SUGGESTED TO GOA A TRIPARTITE MEETING OF PORTUGAL, INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA TO DISCUSS TIMOR QUESTION, INCLUDING POSSIBLE AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA. GOA TURNED THIS DOWN (IMPLIEDLY IN PART BECAUSE OF LIKELY INDONESIAN OPPOSITION).

6. COMMENT: WHILE GOI CONCERN OVER TIMOR HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN ALLAYED BY AUSTRALIAN ACTION IN PASSING ON INFORMATION RE GOP'S TIMOR POLICY, IT POSSIBLE THAT GOI WILL PUT GREATER WEIGHT ON WHAT GOP TELLS ALI MURTOPO DIRECTLY DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO LISBON. SHOULD  
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GOI BE REASSURED BY WHAT ALI LEARNS (PROVIDED HE TRANSMITS IT FAITHFULLY), AND SHOULD PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS RESULT IN GOP OF APPARENT STABILITY, CHANCES OF INDONESIA'S MAKING RASH MOVE TOWARDS TIMOR COULD BE REDUCED. WE SEE USEFULNESS IN OUR TAKING APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO ADVISE SENIOR LEVELS OF GOI OF OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PORTUGAL'S TIMOR POLICY IS NOT INCONCILIABLE TO INDONESIA'S INTERESTS, ALONG LINES OF REFTEL.

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